MAURY COUNTY;

—THE—

BLUE-GRASS REGION OF TENNESSEE

—ITS—

AGRICULTURAL AND MINERALOGICAL RESOURCES,

INCLUDING A VIEW OF THE COUNTY SEAT,

THE CITY OF COLUMBIA,

HER COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES, PAST DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

FACTS FOR PRACTICAL MINDS.

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FACTS FOR PRACTICAL MINDS.

COLUMBIA, TENN.:
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1887.

MAURY COUNTY.

MAURY, the third in wealth and population among the counties of Tennessee, being exceeded only by Shelby and Davidson, whose wealth lies principally in the cities of Memphis and Nashville, is rapidly becoming the cynosure of a large class seeking salubrity of climate, a prolific soil, and the concomitant advantages that will insure a reasonable degree of healthful existence, and at the same time obviate the disadvantages incident to a life in the Northern States or extreme South.

The essential requisites to physical vigor and pecuniary prosperity are abundantly supplied in Maury County, as nature has certainly smiled her sweetest upon this chosen spot, and dispensed her blessing with a prodigality that has made this country equal in beauty and fertility to the celebrated valleys of the Schuylkill, Shenandoah, and Genessee, and the far-famed blue-grass region of Central Kentucky.

This county was formed in 1807, and embraces the townships of Columbia, Williamsport, Hampshire, Culleoka, Hurricane Switch, Bigbyville, Mount Pleasant, Santa Fe, Spring Hill, Neapolis, and Carter's Creek, with a total population of 40,000, of which number about 25-000 are white and the remainder colored.

The surface of the country is generally undulating, occasionally breaking into hills, with here and there one endeavoring to assume the dignity of a mountain, by reaching its crest far above the others; over this area are profusely scattered rich and fertile farms and thrifty communities, while hillsides and valleys are covered with a rich carpeting of blue-grass —so valuable for the propagation of superior live stock.

The border hills of the county are generally of freestone or sandstone, while the body of the county is limestone at a depth of from 2 to 6 feet below the surface.

Duck River, flowing through the county from east to west, is the principal water course, but into this flows the Fountain, Big Bigby, Silver, Little Bigby, Lytles, Randalls River, Knob, Carter, Snow, Rutherford, Globe, Leipers, Catheys, and Turkey creeks, some of which afford excellent water power for the twenty-odd saw mills and grist mills in the county propelled in this manner. These creeks ramify in countless directions, and combined with numerous springs, almost every farm in Maury County has running water upon it, through these agencies.

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The total area in acres of this county is 386,309, with a valuation as follows:

Value of farms and personals	$6,230,625
Value of town property	1,132,075
Total	$7,362,700

The number of acres under cultivation is 242,240, embracing 3,724 farms. There is but one other county in the State having an excess of farms, yet Maury has a greater valuation by nearly $1,000,000, thus being the wealthiest in the State from an agricultural standpoint.

Taxes are very reasonable, as may be seen by the subjoined statement of the levy for 1886:

For State purposes	30c on $100
For school (State)	10c " "
For county	25c " "
For school (county)	06c " "
For jail	08c " "
For highways	05c " "
Total State and county	84c on $100

In this connection, there are 5,480 polls at $2 each, devoted to school purposes. It will be seen that nearly half of the above levy finds its way into the State treasury, yet the county is out of debt, and "county warrants" worth par. Out of the annual levies, great improvements have been made in our highways, bridges, schools, and charitable institutions. There is no single county in the entire South that can show a finer system of turnpikes, there being at present 76 miles of turnpike road, as follows:

Columbia and Hampshire pike	12 miles
Columbia and Mount Pleasant	16 "
Columbia and Little Bigby	10 "
Columbia and Pulaski	5 "
Columbia and Culleoka	5 "
Columbia and Sowell Mill	5 "
Columbia and Sante Fe	11 "
Maury Central	12 "
Total	76 miles

The charters for the Culleoka and Mooresville pike, and Columbia and Williamsport, have been obtained, which will materially augment the number of miles already in operation. The roads are all of macadamized stone and gravel.

The railroads of the county are the Louisville, Nashville & Great Southern, running through the county directly north and south; the Nashville & Florence Railway, which extends from Columbia to Florence and Sheffield, Alabama, and running through the rich iron ore beds of Lawrence and Lewis Counties, with boundless forests of valuable timber

along its line. The Duck River Valley Railroad runs from Columbia to Fayetteville, through one of the richest timber districts in the State, the country abounding in beautiful cedars, as tall and straight as the famed cedars of Lebanon, also hickory, oak, poplar, etc.

The native woods of Maury County are many and varied, comprising all the useful and ornamental woods, including red oak, black oak, white oak, post oak, chestnut oak, yellow and blue poplar, sugar maple, red cedar, cherry, walnut, lynn, beech, etc. These timbers are in great demand in the North, especially the bark of the chestnut oak, which brings a high price from Northern tanners, and the red cedar, cherry and walnut, which are high priced woods. There are hundreds of acres of fine timber land in Maury County, in close contiguity to water power. Mineral lands are also plentiful, that is, iron ore lands, which lie principally in the southwestern part of the county, and extend into Hickman County. The ores are a limonite or brown hematite, and on assay have produced 55 per cent. of pure iron, and the deposits are also remarkably free from phosphorus and sulphur, and lie in beds ranging from two acres to ten acres in area. It is well watered with many springs and streams, which flow westward from the Middle Tennessee basin, and which cut down through the subcarboniferous strata into the lower limestone, thus giving ample facilities for obtaining flux in the manufacture of iron. These beds form a part of the largest body of limonites in the South, and on what is generally known as the Western Iron Belt, comprising an area forty miles wide and extending entirely across the State from north to south.

Beside possessing the most comprehensive advantages for erection of furnaces and manufacture of foundry iron, there is also considerable profit in shipping the ores to furnaces in Middle Tennessee, of which there are many, all using charcoal for fuel. There are large and valuable tracts of these ore lands lying in Hickman and Lawrence counties, contiguous to Maury, which cannot be excelled for excellence of assay and freedom from deleterious substances, being contiguous to water, limestone, and charcoal timber; and with good facilities for transportation, there is no reason why iron cannot be made as cheap here as in any portion of the South.

The N. & F. R. R. has also an arm of its road under contract running through ore beds estimated to contain millions of tons of ore. The Shoal Creek ore beds have now a contract to ship ten car loads per day, the most of it to Birmingham, some to Warner furnace, and some to Terrehaute, Ind., all passing through Columbia.

Nearly every one knows something of the beauty and variety of Tennessee marble, embracing as it does nearly 500 varieties, and of every imaginable color, some of which are the richest ever discovered anywhere, and prized more than any other marble for the purposes for which fancy colors are needed.

In Maury County there are large beds of marble, principally of a black, smoky color, and of the pink variegated and red fossiliferous natures; these beds lying mostly in the Columbia district, and within three miles of

the city proper. These beds of marble have never been developed to any great extent, and only await the effect of energetic effort to yield a handsome profit to the investor.

The red Tennessee marble is extensively used in the North for cemetery purposes, and it is thought by strangers to be Scotch granite, which it resembles very much; the variegated is used for ornamental furniture, such as table tops, wainscotting, mantels, mosaic pavement of halls, and tiling. This marble is shipped principally in rough blocks, scabbed to size, to dealers in large cities, who saw it up into suitable dimensions to suit the demand; it is much higher priced than the Vermont or Italian marbles, and brings from $2 to $3.50 per cubic foot on cars at the quarry. These marble lands can be purchased very cheap, and constitute, when in working order (which involves little expense), one of the most profitable of investments.

Limestone quarries abound in profusion throughout the county, the stone being utilized for all purposes.

The soil of Maury County is of a calcareous nature to a considerable extent, and is divided into clay (red), black loam, and sandy qualities. The products of this soil are multifarious; they are wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, millet, Hungarian, Herd's-grass, timothy, sorghum, tobacco, cotton, etc. Wheat can be grown as successfully in Maury County as in any of the Northern States, the quality being very superior, and the average yield of the county being about 16 bushels to the acre, and some farmers have produced as high as 38 bushels to the acre. There is one important advantage in raising wheat in this section, viz.: It can be placed on the Chicago market at least six weeks earlier than Northern wheat, and consequently brings at least five cents more on the bushel. Clover, timothy, and all the grasses are grown with great success here.

Besides, the soil produces almost all kinds of vegetables and fruits grown outside of tropical climates. Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, beans, cabbages, tomatoes, etc., are produced in great abundance, and by being produced much earlier, are placed on the Northern markets long before their crops mature.

Plowing can be done at some time during every month in the year, though the farmer here usually begins his spring plowing in February, or first weeks of March, and by the end of that month has all his planting done; he is thus enabled to raise two crops per year, and some farmers have raised three crops per year—the first crop being barley, then sowing Hungarian, and then planting a late crop of corn; two crops of corn can be raised with good results in each case, and in fact, any of the vegetables will produce two crops in one season.

Potatoes will yield from 250 to 300 bushels per acre, and many farmers devote a good share of their attention to potatoes, which find a ready sale in the early Northern markets. Two crops each year are raised on he same ground. The second crop being especially valuable as a winter eper and for seed, being considered superior to the New York potato for this purpose. Mr. Clawson, one of our farmers, shipped 45 car-loads, and Mr. Barker, merchant, shipped 40 car-loads, besides others engaged

in the same trade. Fruits grow in abundance on every hand; peaches, apples, pears, grapes, etc., are successfully cultivated, besides we have strawberries, always a sure and profitable crop, raspberries, blackberries, apricots, cherries, plums, and all of the melon family. Water-melons are shipped by the car-load.

Educational advantages are one of the first things one considers when desiring to change a residence from the bleak climate of the North to one farther South, and the facilities presented in a prospective new home for giving his children an education, is a question of vital importance. Maury County is divided into twenty-seven school districts, with a total scholastic population of 14,564, and each district affords schooling from five to ten months in the year, with able teachers, thus giving the young not only an elementary, but an excellent educational training, that is calculated to fit them for an active and useful life.

Among the pursuits engaging the attention of the people of Maury County, that of stock raising is entitled to prominent mention, as this feature has served to spread her reputation throughout the length and breadth of our land, and the quality of stock raised exciting the astonishment and admiration of all who have given the subject the least attention.

The natural and artificial conditions of this section favor stock husbandry in a high degree. The matchless grasses, superior natural shelter offered by the hills and ravines, the ample water supply, cheap corn, cheap transportation, cheap lands, and a mild, healthful climate, should satisfy the most ambitious grazer and feeder.

Maury County raises and sells more mules than any other county in the United States, also an excessive amount of swine, sheep, horses, and cattle.

AMONG HORSES.

There are many valuable animals owned and bred in this favored section. Many direct descendants of the most famous families—Bonesetter, Tom Hal, Traveler, Almont, Wilkes—and many of the most celebrated on the turf, were bred and owned here at one time—Mattie Hunter, Little Brown Jug, Bonesetter, Joe Bowers, Brown Hal, Alice West, Annie W, Joe Braden, Joe Ray, Bay Tom, Trouble, Almont Jr., Ben Star, Katie Ishler, and many others of less celebrity.

The Columbia Training Stables, with Ed. Geers, one of the ablest and most widely known trainers, in charge, are now handling some of the best horses to be found anywhere.

Much attention has been given to raising Jersey cattle, and some of the most celebrated animals of that breed in the world are now owned here. Major Campbell Brown, Capt. M. C. Campbell, and W. J. Webster, Esq., have the finest herds, though there are many others worthy of mention.

The Shorthorns, also, for beef cattle, have been raised by a number of our farmers, and Major Ben. Harlan, of this county, has generally taken the premium at our State fairs and in the Nashville beef shows for size and quality of his fatted Shorthorns.

Mr. T. M. Figures, and Messrs. S. J. Roberts & Son, have also recently introduced the Holstein breed of cattle, and already have fine herds of registered Holsteins.

The principal stock industry is the raising and fattening of mules for the Southern market, large numbers of mule colts being brought here by our farmers, in addition to those bred here, and this industry has grown until this county is now rated first in the United States for the number of mules raised and shipped.

Colonel Ridley has justly won the title of the "Mule King," his annual sales amounting to from $35,000 to $47,000. Besides, there are numerous other dealers whose sales amount to many thousands each year. Colonel Ridley's sales this year amount to over $50,0000.

Maury County usually makes between two and three million bushels of corn; but the past year was unfavorable for that crop, as the following report of its agricultural productions and stock will show:

Bales of cotton	8,021
Pounds of tobacco	58,214
Bushels of Irish potatoes	77,944
Bushels of sweet potatoes	84,952
Tons of hay	9,196
Bushels of corn	1,742,929
Bushels of wheat	325,910
Bushels of oats	124,315
Bushels of rye	4,161
Bushels of barley	14,107
Number of horses and mules	19,198
Number of cattle	18,505
Number of sheep	17,160
Number of hogs	59,236

Pork packing would prove especially profitable here. With the resources at hand and the fact that this point is as far south as it can be securely done, and the virtual control of the best Southern markets, makes even the difference in freights on this great article of trade a sure and safe profit on the investment.

There was sheared about 70,000 pounds of wool.

The number of milch cows was 6,280, producing 15,576 gallons of milk, 392,881 pounds of butter and 1,795 pounds of cheese.

There are no creameries here yet, though the country is peculiarly adapted for them. Fine cattle, superb pasturage, a climate that permits their being run to full capacity all the year round, clear, pure streams and ready markets bespeak for him who takes the initiative a fortune.

Chickens, eggs, butter, and fowls of all kinds are becoming a great trade, so easily and cheaply are they raised. Mr. Jacob Barker alone invested $10,000 in turkeys this season, one shipment to New Orleans amounting to two car-loads of 70,000 pounds of dressed turkeys. Several other merchants also shipped large quantities during the same time.

The Louisville, Nashville & Great Southern Railroad runs special trains at certain seasons for fruits and vegetables, and offers special rates to manufacturing enterprises along its line.

The people of this county are hospitable and intelligent, as much so as will be found in the average population of any part of the country, and perhaps more so than in many localities. This is a sufficient guarantee that any man of industry and intelligence may make a pleasant home anywhere he may select to locate.

No man need be deterred from coming to Tennessee for fear of ill-treatment on account of his religious or political opinions. If he is a Democrat, he may be a Democrat in any part of the county; if he is a Republican, he can go where he pleases and avow his sentiments when and where he chooses without the slightest danger to his person or property. Party and latitudinal prejudices have been entirely allayed, and, we repeat, no one need have fear on that subject.

A welcome is extended to the immigrant from whatever locality he may come, and the fullest freedom of thought, speech, and action is guaranteed.

Of course a market is an important factor in considering the agricultural and other advantages of any section. This Maury County has. She has access to the best markets in the country, as may be seen by glancing at its geographical position. On the north are Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Chicago; on the east are the markets of Richmond, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York; on the west are Memphis, St. Louis, and Kansas City; on the south are Birmingham, Montgomery, Atlanta, Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans.

Nearly all these points are reached in a few hours, the eastern markets being at the greatest distance, about thirty hours. Nashville may be reached from Columbia in two hours, Louisville in ten hours, and Cincinnati in fourteen hours.

Freights are exceedingly low, special trains being run during the early vegetable season for the sole advantage of the farmers.

Can there be a more favorable section than this for farmers from any part of the Union? With a climate equal to the best, with a soil capable of fabulous productions, and with markets accessible by railroads, it offers inducements that should arrest the prompt attention of thoughtful persons from all sections of the country, and especially from the eastern and northwestern States, where the winters are so long and inhospitable.

COLUMBIA.

COLUMBIA, the county seat of Maury County, is situated on the south bank of Duck River, very near the center of the county, on the Decatur division of the main line of the Louisville, Nashville & Great Southern Railroad, 47 miles from Nashville, 232 from Louisville, 342 from Cincinnati, 159 from Birmingham, Ala., and 254 from Montgomery, Ala., 75 from Decatur, and 78 from Florence.

The city rests upon a series of undulating hills composed of limestone, and nestles at the base of Mt. Parnassus, whose summit towers over 200 feet above the city, and from whence can be viewed one of nature's grandest panoramic displays, as on every hand, stretching away toward the horizon like mighty billows on a troubled sea, are seen thousands of acres of fertile field and sylvan glen.

Mt. Parnassus, in a geological sense, is classic ground, as this section has evidently at one time been the bed of a sea, the evidences of which lie around in great profusion. The hills in many places are covered with water-worn pebbles that have apparently been worn in their rounded form by attrition, and have been cast in their present position by the action of the waves.

About one-third the way up the Mount are found a large quantity of beautiful sea shells in a petrified form, and in many cases these shells are found imbedded in the solid limestone rocks; besides shells, numerous pieces of driftwood are found petrified into stone.

At some period of the earth's history, probably in some great convulsion of nature, the rocks were rent, the mountain parted, and this pent up sea found its way to the ocean, leaving this section with its minerals, its rocks, and its sand and vegetable mold in time to become the habitation of man.

To the stranger visiting the Columbia of to-day, the history of the city must possess all the interest of a fairy tale. From the rude log hut, destitute of all comforts, except mere shelter, to the solidly built, handsome, wealthy metropolis of a rich region, with all the evidences and appliances of comfort, culture, education, and progress, is a long step indeed.

To-day Columbia has a population of fully 5,500, including suburbs. It is laid out with broad and regular streets crossing each other at right angles, and many of them luxuriantly shaded with maples and oaks.

The city has fully fifteen miles of macadamized streets in good repair, and some of the finest public and private structures in the State, evidencing a high idea of art in their owners and projectors.

This city has one of the finest systems of

WATER-WORKS

in the South. They were erected in 1883, at a cost of $50,000, under the superintendence of Mr. Travers Daniel, who has successfully erected systems in various parts of the country. The works are on the natural gravitation plan, the reservoir being located on the summit of Mt. Parnassus, 203 feet above the court-house square and 300 feet above the pump, on the bank of Duck River. The reservoir has a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons. The pumping engine, from the factory of the Geo. F. Blake Manufacturing Co., of Boston, Mass., was of 85-horse power, with a condensing steam pump, and had a daily pumping capacity of 1,153,000 gallons.

This was found inadequate to the demand, and two new boilers made by Bigelow & Co., New Haven, Conn., 54x12 each replaced the others. The water is forced through pipes to the reservoir and thence distributed by a system of mains and small pipes, amounting in length to seven and one-half miles. A visit to the station will more than repay any one, and will be a delight to an admirer of fine machinery in perfect working order. The station is located at the foot of East Sixth Street, near the bridge, and contains in its boiler room two new boilers made by the Bigelow Company, New Haven, Conn., 54x12 each. The boiler room is 20x30 feet inside, giving plenty of room for the large boilers. The breeching is 33 inches of boiler iron and the stack is 100 feet high from top of the boilers. When the new machinery was put in the old boiler room was made the engine room and the new boilers were placed in the old engine room. The company now has a new Duplex compound condensing engine made by the Dean Steam Pump Company, of Holyoke, Mass., with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. The pipes for receiving and discharging the water are 12 inches in diameter. The engine room also contains a Blake pump of the same capacity as the engine every 24 hours, which is always ready for use, when a very high pressure is needed. This engine and pump have all the modern improvements now attached to such machinery, condensers, patent boiler feeders and inside plunger, and are a great advance beyond the old machinery. The reservoirs are one mile from the pumping station, elevation 300 feet and with a water pressure of 160 pounds to the inch, 85 pounds of steam is used in running the engine. The buildings at the pumping station are well constructed, commodious, and arranged especially for the convenient and skillful running of the machinery contained in them. The new engine room, which was recently constructed, has walls which are forty inches thick laid in the best of cement. The machinery has been placed in position by skilled engineers and machinists, and while in motion there is no perceptible jar to the pump, although working under heavy pressure. A visit to the station will be an agreea-

ble surprise to those who have no definite idea of the magnitude of the machinery it contains. The reservoirs are visited often, and have been overhauled and rebuilt, and have a capacity of $1,000,000 gallons, and are enclosed by a good plank fence. Mr. C. H. Ledlie, of St. Louis, was the engineer in charge of the additions and improvements and superintended the placing of the machinery. Mr. James Gamble, of New York City, is President of the company, and Mr. Lucuis Frierson, of this city, is Treasurer, Mr. John Gamble is Superintendent and Henry Adkisson is the engineer in charge at the station.

There are about 7½ miles of water-main in the city, of various sizes, affording every advantage for domestic or public use. There are forty-four double nozzle fire-hydrants, each nozzle throwing a stream 100 feet. This, with a first-class steam fire-engine, affords ample protection from fire, also taking into consideration the many garden hose that are owned throughout the city. The water used by the city is not a limestone water. It is pumped from Duck River, which has its source in the mountains, the water coming from freestone knobs, thus making it pure and clear, although the company has put in a filter so as to effectually remove all objectionable substances.

Water rents are as cheap here as elsewhere, and the water better than in most cities in Tennessee, especially those on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. Columbia has a natural

SYSTEM OF SEWERAGE,

a heavy rain completely washing all filth and debris away, although there is a large sewer running from the Bethel House to the river, which is added to and enlarged as occasion requires.

The streets of the city are splendidly lighted by gas, as well as the public buildings and many private residences.

Through energetic effort the company has been enabled to furnish a superior gas at a reasonable cost. The gas made is not a coal gas, but what is known as "fixed oil gas," possessing great brilliancy, the attribute of cheapness as well. The Columbia Gas Company was organized in April, 1882, with a capital stock of $40,000. They have at present over five miles of gas mains, and utilize a reservoir with a capacity of 40,000 cubic feet.

Fully alive to the progressive tendency of the age, the city also has a

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

with seventy-five subscribers, being more than many other cities of larger population, and much more in proportion than Nashville or Memphis. Columbia is connected by telephone with all the principal cities and towns within a radius of sixty miles, and by telegraph with all parts of the world.

AS A RAILROAD CENTER

Columbia is of considerable importance. The Louisville, Nashville & Great Southern is the principal road running from Cincinnati to New Orleans, thus giving ingress and egress to any part of the country. The Duck River Valley Railway (narrow gauge), runs from Columbia, in an eastern course, through Marshall County, touching Lewisburg, the county seat, into Lincoln County, having its terminus at Fayetteville, the county seat. At that place it connects with a branch of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway. This road passes through a rich cedar and hickory country and gives Columbia direct connection with the coal fields of the Cumberland Table-lands.

The Nashville & Florence Railroad extends from Columbia southwest through the counties of Lawrence and Lewis to the towns of Florence, Ala., and Sheffield. Here this road touches the Tennessee River, where it is navigable the year round, and connects with the Memphis & Charleston Railroad also. This railroad passes through very rich iron ore-beds, and is projected into others still more valuable. These ores are within easy distance of Columbia, and may be brought here at small cost for transportation and mining.

Here then is a splendid opportunity for extensive

MANUFACTURING INTERESTS,

devoted to making pig-iron. The ore is within twenty-five miles, the coke within easy access by the Louisville, Nashville & Great Southern, and there is plenty white oak timber in this section for charcoal; limestone is plentiful here, and labor cheap, and there is no reason why iron cannot be made here cheaper than elsewhere.

There is also a most excellent opportunity for investment in manufacturing buckets, and the various things in which cedar is used. In the city here they use cedar wood for kindling, it is so plentiful and cheap. The Duck River road passes through a virgin forest of cedar, hickory, chestnut, and oak, and the Nashville & Florence Railway through hickory, chestnut, and oak. Where is there a more favorable location than this for a hub and spoke or handle factory, or for farming implements? Or with the immense amount of tan-bark from the chestnut oak, a tannery? These facts, coupled with the rich agricultural country surrounding, which insures cheap food for operatives, merit profound consideration.

It will be seen from the statistics given elsewhere that Maury County raises nearly 9,000 bales of cotton, and there is every reason for the assertion that this city is a most advantageous spot for

COTTON MANUFACTURING.

Cheap coal is to be had in abundance, transportation is cheap, and we practically have an outlet to any point of the compass.

The proverbial enterprise of the citizens of this city has been rewarded in this respect, and a cotton mill company with a capital of $100,000 is now organized and chartered as Columbia Cotton Mill Company, who have erected a mill of 100 looms, and also own and operate Laurel Hill Factory in Lawrence County, with 56 looms. Capital invested in this manner is yielding from 10 to 25 per cent. on the investment.

Middle Tennessee raises nearly 60,000 bales of cotton, and surely this, like Augusta, Ga., is the place for cotton manufacturing.

In other lines of manufacturing, Columbia is not behind the times, and while not boasting of a large number of concerns, yet what she has are solid and in a prosperous condition.

Closely contiguous to the city are large areas of red clay, suitable for brick-making, which will prove a most profitable industry, as what brick are now made here are made without the advantages of improved machinery.

The sorghum raised in Maury County is of a superior quality, and rich in saccharine, and with mills equipped like those in Louisiana, or at Champagne, Ill., granulated sugar could be made at a big profit.

The castor bean also grows almost spontaneously in this region, offering a rich opportunity for the manufacture of castor oil.

Columbia now has of manufacturing interests—

Three carriage factories.
One ice factory.
One chair factory and pipe factory.
One woolen mill.
Three flour mills, one having a capacity of 12,000 barrels annually.
One large furniture factory and planing mill.
Grist mill and elevator.
Band saw and planing mill.
Cotton factory.
Pump factory.
And numerous others of minor importance.

With the natural advantages of timber, iron ore, cotton, sorghum, castor beans, good water, cheap coal, and cheap transportation, this certainly is a spot for profitable manufacturing enterprises.

To facilitate the growth and development of the city, a number of her leading and substantial men have formed the

MERCHANTS' AND MANUFACTURERS' EXCHANGE,

the object being to induce and assist immigration to this city and to build up and develop the great resources of the county. Its officers at present are: W. Abe Smythe, President; W. J. Hine, Vice-President; J. H. Dew, Secretary.

This association is untiring in its efforts to benefit the city, and its labors are already beginning to show excellent results. Any information not contained in this article will be cheerfully furnished by the Secretary.

ONE HUNDRED MERCANTILE HOUSES

are in this city, each of a thrifty, enterprising, and prosperous nature, many Northern men being included in the number, and representing all the lines of mercantile pursuit. Columbia has three

BANKS,

all in a prosperous condition, as follows:

Bank of Columbia. Capital, $50,000; surplus, $25,000; deposits, $200,000.

Second National Bank. Capital, $82,500; surplus, $7,700; deposits, $125,000.

Columbia Banking Company. Capital, $100,000; surplus, $20,000; deposits, $200,000.

STREET RAILWAY.

The Columbia Street Railway Company has procured a charter from the State, the right of way from the corporation, the line already surveyed, and the road will soon be equipped and running, with a street car line equal in all its equipments to the best.

There is also a Building and Loan Association here. These are mere testimonials to the wealth and thriftiness of the people of this city.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES

in Columbia are unsurpassed anywhere. The city has a splendid graded public school system, under the superintendence of Prof. S. M. Arnell, assisted by a corps of able and experienced teachers. The schools for both white and black occupy imposing buildings whose cost was over $20,000.

All of the elementary branches are taught here by thorough and competent tutors. Thus a substantial education may be readily obtained in the city schools, fitting one for all practical business and social life, while for a profession the schools offer a thorough rudamentary foundation. The white and colored schools are taught in different buildings. Columbia besides having a thorough public school system, has a male high school for advanced scholars, under Professors R. D'S. Robertson and Professor Griffin. It has also two noted female colleges, the Columbia Female Institute and the Columbia Athenæum, both of which draw their patronage from a number of States, and have an excellent corps of teachers. The former was chartered with college powers in 1835, and is now under the Rectorship of Rev. George Beckett, S. T. D. The latter is in charge of its President, Capt. Robert D. Smith.

Public morals here are of a high standard, and carefully guarded by the presence of

CHURCHES

of every denomination, there being a Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist, and Christian churches.

THE PRESS

of Columbia is in a flourishing condition, there being the "Maury Democrat," and the "Columbia Herald," published here.

AS A STOCK MARKET,

Columbia has a national celebrity, there being more stock raised and sold in this market than any other in the United States. Hundreds of mules and other stock were driven to markets and sold, and a great many are still carried in this way, but the business has been rapidly increasing, and led to the formation of the

COLUMBIA STOCK YARD COMPANY,

who constructed yards embracing about three acres, under roof at the L., N. & G. S. Ry. depot, and who now enjoy every facility for handling stock to advantage.

The company began business Sept. 15, 1883, and by report of L. Junius Polk, Superintendent, handled the following amount of stock, to Jan. 15, 1884:

Horses and mules	3,323
Cattle	612
Hogs	8,101
Sheep	300

The buildings were all accidentally destroyed by fire during the past summer, but such was the prosperity of the enterprise, and the energy of the management, that it was soon rebuilt and put in order for business again, and is now in a most flourishing condition, as the subjoined report furnished by its present Superintendent, Mr. W. B. Burnett, will show. From Oct. 2, 1886, to date, Jan. 25, 1887, the following shipments and sales were made:

Mules	2,955
Cattle	825
Hogs	5,296
Sheep	481

In addition, a number of public sales at auction were held of horses, cattle, and mules, and there are now at the yards for shipment 228 mules. This added to the numbers shiped from other stations along the railroad in this county, show the justness of the claims for a stock county.

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CITY DEBT AND TAXES.

Columbia is in a very sound financial condition at the present time, there being a debt of only $50,000—8 per cent. railroad bonds—being the assistance given to the Duck River Valley Narrow-gauge Railroad. The total amount of taxable property is $1,500,000, and the rate is $1.50 per $100. Insurance is about 1 per cent. on public and private structures.

Columbia has been making vast improvements in the past two or three years, and can now show some of the finest

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

and business blocks in the State; the most prominent are the new Masonic Block, Bethell House, Rains' Block, Dodson & Akin's Parlor Mammoth Livery Stable, Opera House Block, and many splendid business blocks, all being constructed of brick or stone.

THE HOTELS OF THE CITY

are the Bethell House, built by a stock company in 1882, being three stories high, of brick, and embracing every modern improvement and convenience; the Nelson House and the Guest House, both of which are good houses. Jackson House and Allen House at the depot. Adjoining the Bethell House, and, in fact, a part of the block, is

THE OPERA HOUSE,

one of the neatest and cosiest in the South. It has a seating capacity of 850, and will hold 1,000. It is lighted by gas, with electric lighters, has a large stage, with nine comfortable and roomy dressing rooms, and its acoustics are unsurpassed. It is a place of amusement that would satisfy any community.

Columbia also has several secret societies in her midst, embracing the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Honor, Royal Arcanum, and others.

Columbia has never had an epidemic of any serious character.

We have devoted some time and space to a number of subjects that pertain to this locality, and have reserved till now a few remarks on

THE CLIMATE AND HEALTH

of this city and vicinity. Columbia stands upon record as one of the most healthy cities in the South, the death rate being less than 6 in 1,000, as the following report shows:

A. Barr, undertaker, makes the following mortality report for the year 1886: 27 deaths in the city; 9 from a distance; 9 from the country. 25 were buried at Rose Hill and 2 in Greenwood, being those who died here. Those brought from a distance were interred mostly at Rose Hill.

The climate is not subject to either great extremes of heat or cold, and the maximum and minimum figures of the thermometer are of short duration. The constant degree of humidity in the atmosphere—without which physicians say no city is healthy—is remarkable. This gives us green fields when others are drying up and parching.

What is known as winter here lasts bare two months, and in summer the days are not too hot and the nights generally cool. Our elevation gives a dry, well drained soil, and clear limestone water, uncontaminated with decaying animal or vegetable matter, which with pure air gives us advantages not enjoyed usually elsewhere. In cholera epidemics, when it has been raging all about, Columbia has been entirely free from its ravages.

An examination of the census reports will show this one of the healthiest portions of the State. The mean annual temperature is about sixty degrees, and the annual rain fall fifty inches—for Middle Tennessee.

THE COST OF LIVING

is as cheap, and cheaper, in Columbia than elsewhere. If you are a renter, good houses rent from $10 to $25 per month, but it is much cheaper to build, as a neat cottage can be built for $400 or $500, or with a thousand dollars you can do much better and buy the lot also. Poplar lumber sells for $12 to $15 per thousand, and brick are $6 to $8 per thousand, with other material in proportion. The ordinary provender of life is both plenty and cheap the year round.

The Building and Loan Association places it within the reach of any one to purchase a lot and build thereon to suit themselves.

THE PEOPLE

of this city are more cosmopolitan in character than those of many other communities. They represent in a high degree the hospitality, good sense, high social qualities, and mental stamina for which the Tennessean is proverbial.

The constant friction between the elements of society steadily going in and out of here and the citizens of this community, has surely and steadily worn away sectional prejudice, dissipated local conceits, and indeed every thing of a provincial nature, and developed in their stead a broad, liberal, comprehensive, cosmopolitan order most refreshing to see.

AS A PLACE OF LOCATION.

Columbia is destined to be a large city. This entire section is awakening from its "Rip Van Winkle" to the need of immediate and thorough advertisement of its wonderful resources. Northern people are fast becoming conscious of its climatic and other advantages. The spirit of inquiry, like the schoolmaster, is abroad in the land. Home seekers, home builders, and capitalists are finding their way here, and everywhere

land sales are becoming more frequent. There never will be a better time to locate here than now. The timber supply is ample, the country is well supplied with fencing and building material, and the local market is supplied with wood at $2 to $3 per cord. Pine, oak, cedar, cherry, hickory, and walnut is at our doors for general manufacturing purposes. Coal for household and manufacturing purposes can be secured from the great coal fields that are in close proximity to the city, and can be furnished here as cheaply as at any city in the country; and, in fact, all raw material used in manufacturing can be secured very cheaply. There is no end of building-stone, this country being well supplied with quarries of fine building-stone; also plenty of clay for brick of the best kind. The close contiguity of iron ore makes a furnace a thing of much profit here, or a foundry; and plenty of tan-bark renders a tannery a most satisfactory investment, and so on *ad libitum*.

The merchants of Columbia can review their operations with just pride for the year just passed, as each line of trade reports an increase of business from ten to thirty per cent.

There are several fine sulphur springs in the county and in the corporate limits, while in close proximity and easy access are many of the finest mineral waters in the world, affording their benefits to the afflicted. While many of these watering places are well attended, it is more often as a gathering for pleasure than as a sanitarium of health.

About 4,000 bales of cotton have been shipped this season, besides hundreds of cars of corn, hundreds of cars of horses and mules, hogs, cattle, sheep, besides many thousands of dollars worth of wheat, and thousands worth of vegetables and fruits; also, of lumber, pig-iron, logs, cotton-seed, hides, feathers and other merchandise.

The honesty, enterprise, intelligence, progressive tendencies and universal bonhomie of the citizens of Columbia and Maury County, not less than its commanding geographical position, uniformity of climate, charming landscape, varied productions, its minerals, its railroad facilities and fertility, makes this as desirable a region for the immigrant, the business man and the lover of freedom, health and rational living, as can be found in any portion of the Union.

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